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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF U. S. SURVEYOR-GENERAL,

Boise, Idaho, April 20, 1912.

Hon. Frank Bond,

Chairman, Executive Comm. U.S. Geo. Survey,

Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Bond,

Referring to your letters of October 19, 1911 and March 29, 1912, relating to the State Boundary between Idaho and Montana, and requesting my opinion as to the proper name or names for the various sections, I have the honor to report I have had considerable personal experience and have gained some knowledge from it concerning these ranges, and since receiving your first letter I have consulted Mr. Howard B. Carpenter, U. S. Deputy Surveyor who surveyed this boundary; Mr. Frank S. Spafford, Assistant Supervisor of Surveys, who has had large experience in the examination of work along these lines. Judge R. P. Quarles who has personal knowledge of the Lemhi District, and Judge Ailshie of the Supreme Court, who is also well acquainted with the Lemhi country, and from the information gained and from my own knowledge ~~X~~ I would recommend that that portion of the State boundary lying between Idaho and Montana beginning at a point where we leave the meridian and follow the summit of the mountains, to a point where the range joins the Continental Divide near the head-waters

of the North Fork of the Salmon, and the East Fork of the Bitter Root Rivers, being about T. 28 N., R. 21 E., B.M., be called and known as the Bitter Root Mountains. X

Here this range joins with the Continental Divide coming from a northeasterly direction across Montana. From the point last mentioned on the Continental Divide to the Lemhi Pass is known and should be called the Big Hole range.

From the Lemhi Pass to Monida, a small station on the Oregon Short Line railroad, is locally known as Beaver Head Mountains, this name could be applied to this section.

X From Monida to the State line, the range is known as the Henry Lake Mountains.

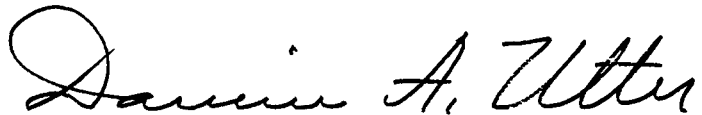
The recommendation, however, that a certain portion or all of the Divide between Idaho and Montana be called Lemhi Range could not be considered for there is already a splendid range of mountains lying west of the Lemhi Valley, much higher than the Divide, having peaks that are higher than any part of the Continental Divide, lying between Idaho and Montana. This range of mountains has been known as the Lemhi Range and the peaks known as the Lemhi Peaks for many years and it would make a great confusion if our Geographers tried to move the ^{name} ~~range~~ over onto the Continental Divide.

The names I have given to you in order to localize the different portions of the Divide are well known and in common use by the natives living in the vicinity of the boundary on both sides, and can be used with perfect satisfaction to both Idaho and Montana.

The present state map of Idaho is very misleading inasmuch as it has the entire boundary between Idaho and Montana which follows the mountain tops named the Bitter Root Mountains, while in reality the Bitter Root Mountains are only a spur or offshoot from the Continental Divide and received their name from local trappers on the river which also bears that name, on account of the roots of a certain herb gathered there and used by the trappers and Indians for medical purposes.

Hoping these few disjointed remarks may be of some little assistance to you and your board in perfecting the map of the West, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Damien A. Utter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

U.S. Surveyor General for Idaho.

BSK.